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THREE TO WATCH IN SOCHI

- **8:30 a.m.** Canada faces Sweden in the women's curling gold medal match. Jennifer Jones' rink has a chance to win Canada's first women's Olympic curling gold since 1998.
- **12 p.m.** Canada and the U.S. showdown for women's hockey gold for the fourth time. Canada has won the last three gold medals, and already beat the U.S. in the preliminary round.
- **12:30 p.m.** Rosalind Groenewoud will go for the inaugural gold in women's ski halfpipe. She's already an X Games and World Championship gold medallist.

GREG DOWNS/FOR METRO

From the Senate floor to the strip club door

Suspended senator Patrick Brazeau is now managing an Ottawa strip joint PAGE 7

Hedge(hog) your bets and say later to your 'gator

Day 2: We're not monkeying around, exotic pets can be lethal PAGES 8-9

NEWS WORTH SHARING.

CANADA'S GOLDEN DUO

After so many silvers, there was a golden moment for Canada Wednesday thanks to two bobsledders. Kaillie Humphries, left, and Heather Moyse celebrate their win in Sochi. Full Olympic coverage on pages 20-22. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Henderson out of city hall race

Family advice.
Councillor decides not to run in the fall

MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

Coun. Dale Henderson will not seek re-election in the fall, he has confirmed.

The Ward 9 councillor, who was elected in 2010 and has been a steadfast supporter of Mayor Joe Fontana's aim of a zero per cent tax rise, says he's considering business projects instead.

But he still has work to do, and he will suggest millions of dollars worth of cuts to council next week as the 2014 budget process nears its end.

Medical problems forced Henderson to miss budget meetings in recent weeks, but the southwest London councillor, who's 67, insisted that's not the reason he won't run again. He said he's back to normal after a short stay in hospital.

The views of his family did play a part in the decision.

Henderson, who has a son, daughter and two grandchildren, said they've never liked him being part of municipal politics.

"They say I'm crazy," he laughed. "They ask me, 'Why the hell would you want to get beat up by the media?' I want to change the world."

So has he done what he wanted?

Almost, he says.

Henderson is proposing what he says amounts to at least $17 million savings in the budget process, which resumes Tuesday.

He wants to amalgamate London's various economic development organizations, including TechAlliance and the London Economic Development Corporation, and suggests a $2 per night levy on hotel rooms, saying the two ideas could be worth $4 million a year to the city.

He also wants the city to save $10 million a year by moving to a biweekly garbage collection cycle.

And he's suggesting police cuts, too, including having social workers instead of cops intervene in "many domestic 911 calls."

Henderson has been a magnet for controversy since he defeated city hall veteran Gina Barber by just 212 of the 9,209 votes cast in Ward 9 four years ago.

Religious and conservative, he has often been the target for criticism, not least when he spent $7,000 of taxpayers' money on video equipment to launch Dale TV, his online connection with constituents.

Each episode was watched by only a few hundred people.

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Corolla S model shown.**

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Camry SE model shown.**

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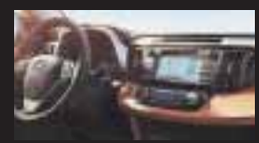

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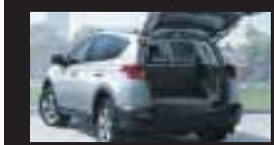

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Wet weather

Rainfall warning issued for region

A rainfall warning has been issued by Environment Canada for London and most of Southwestern Ontario as two storms are forecast to merge and hit the area Thursday and Friday.

Along with rising temperatures that are expected to hit 6 C Thursday, it's expected the region will see as much as 25 to 50 millimetres of rain, gusting winds and thunder and lightning.

Rain is expected to begin falling early in the afternoon Thursday with the possibility of thunderstorms later in the day.

The wind is expected to gust from 30 to 50 kilometres per hour.

The rain will continue overnight and the wind could become stronger with possible gusts as high as 60 km/h

There is a chance that a brief period of snow, freezing rain or ice pellets may precede the rain as temperatures rise from just below freezing to above.

This has prompted the Upper Thames River Conservation Authority to warn of waterways and low-lying areas. Rivers and creeks will approach bank-full conditions, and in some areas may spill into floodplains.

As well, the City of London says some localized flooding could occur.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Forecast

- **Thursday:** Rainfall warning.
- **Friday – Tuesday:** Chance of flurries and dropping temperatures.

Mohamed Salih, 28, a community activist who's worked or volunteered with all levels of government and local community groups, announced his candidacy for Ward 3 Wednesday night. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Game on in city council Ward 3

Fresh perspective. Candidate Mohamed Salih says new vision needed

He's no ordinary Joe, and in a ward where even the incumbent has yet to file nomination papers, Mohamed Salih's candidacy adds some much-needed fresh air.

The 28-year-old Salih, a community activist who's worked or volunteered with all levels of government and local community groups, announced his candidacy for Ward 3 Wednesday night during a rally at Archie's Seafood on Huron Street.

Joe Swan currently holds that seat.

Salih, a resident of the ward, said he's heard from neighbours and small businesses that the ward can be a better place, but a new vision is needed for that to happen.

"We need to have better representation and have our agenda delivered to the forefront at city hall," he said.

"We need better transit in the ward and to promote our vision for emerging industries."

Salih believes his experience with the inner workings of government and as a volunteer in the non-profit sector have given him the opportunity to understand what it takes to get things done.

"At city council, you need to be able to work around different levels of government to get things done and pushed forward," he said.

He knows there have been calls for more diversity at the council level, but said skin colour or ethnicity shouldn't overshadow the issues and a candidate's ability to deal with them.

Salih, who fled from Sudan as a child, has been a member of the Canadian Armed Forces and now works for Canada Border Services Agency.

He was defeated by Peggy Sattler in London West last year when he ran for the provincial NDP nomination in that riding.

SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Ward 3

- A total of 42 people have filed to run in the municipal election on Oct. 27, hoping to become city councillors or mayor.
- But, in Ward 3, only one other person has filed: Bill Harris of Goldwick Crescent. Incumbent Joe Swan hasn't handed in his paperwork.
- Previous Coun. Bernie MacDonald has stated his intention to run again, but has not filed papers either.

Western student dies after trip to Blue Mountain

Police have identified a 20-year-old snowboarder who died Wednesday after being found in critical condition at Blue Mountain ski resort near Collingwood.

Western University student Taylor Ogram of Caledon was reported missing by his friends around 1 a.m. and was found by two members of the resort's staff about a half-hour later, suffering from life-threatening injuries.

Paramedics transported Ogram to Collingwood General and Marine Hospital and he was pronounced dead a short time later.

OPP Sgt. Peter Leon says the snowboarder was wearing a helmet but the exact nature of his injuries is still to be determined through a post-mortem examination.

Leon says Ogram was found in a wooded area next to the ski hill near the South Base Lodge, adding it's possible he might have hit a tree.

"He was with a group of friends throughout the day ... and they were trying to locate him for a period of time," Leon said. The friends then told security at the resort and a search was immediately started and police called.

Blue Mountain spokeswoman Ashley Boland says the incident happened on the Sunrise run but had no further details.

She says OPP are at the site and resort officials would have no additional comment since they are waiting for the police to complete their investigation.

"This is a very tragic thing for Blue Mountain and the family ... and out of respect for the OPP's process, we'd like to refrain from any further comment," Boland said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"This is a very tragic thing for Blue Mountain and the family ... and out of respect for the OPP's process, we'd like to refrain from any further comment." Blue Mountain spokeswoman Ashley Boland

London TV host hails parking full of grace

Lincoln McCardle makes friends with a downtown parking meter. MIKE DONACHIE/METRO

Yeah, that's the ticket. Host of #LdnOntTV thinks a 10-minute grace period would make downtown more welcoming for parkers

MIKE DONACHIE
mike.donachie@metronews.ca

Argh. Only a few minutes late.

We've all been there: You run back to the car and arrive seconds after the ticket hits the windshield: Your parking ran out.

But that could be a thing of the past — at least for some people — if city council accepts an idea being suggested.

Lincoln McCardle, Londoner and host of a weekly show on Rogers TV, wants to give people more time to get back to their cars, by bringing in a rule already used in Toronto.

"I think people should get a 10-minute grace period after their payment expires," said the host of #LdnOntTV, the show dedicated to hot topics on Twitter.

"That being said, I think more broadly what it speaks to is people wanting to come downtown.

"When people say they don't want to come downtown, they say parking is often the reason they don't. This would just be a kind gesture."

It's all about making sure downtown is welcoming, he said, and trying to end the "myth" that parking downtown is difficult. There's plenty of parking, said McCardle, who lives and works downtown, and a more relaxed attitude would encourage people to see that.

But he's still in favour of strong enforcement. If people really are flouting the rules, they should be ticketed like anyone else.

McCardle emailed his idea to all city councillors and has already had some offering to put it on the agendas of city hall committees. He's had encouraging responses from Couns. Matt Brown and Stephen Orser, he said.

The view from downtown

Downtown London executive director Janette MacDonald said she didn't expect an extended grace period would make a difference.

- MacDonald said parking enforcement staff often allow a few minutes' grace already.
- MacDonald said people should park properly and pay properly, or choose a long-term lot.

Benefits. Wynne has 'picked a fight': Union

Premier Kathleen Wynne blindsided tens of thousands of civil servants by suddenly announcing major changes to their retirement benefits without consulting their union first, a public-sector union leader said Wednesday.

The cash-strapped Liberal government announced late Tuesday that civil servants would have to work longer to qualify for retirement benefits, as well as pay more for those benefits.

Warren "Smokey" Thomas, head of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, said they would have been more than willing to negotiate with the government as they have done in the past over pensions.

Now the OPSEU, which represents about 35,000 members, is seeking legal advice on whether the government can make these new changes unilaterally.

"If they would have just picked up the phone and called and said, 'Can we strike a table, we want to sit down and talk about some of these things we see as problems,' we could have went to that table," Thomas said.

"But now all they've done is picked a fight. And they've made it adversarial when it didn't have to be adversarial."

Government Services Minister John Milloy acknowledged that the union was only informed of the changes on Tuesday before they were announced in a news release.

But he insisted the government has a right to make the changes and has to provide the union with three years' notice.

"We sit down with unions and negotiate certain aspects of their contract," he said. "Other aspects are in the purview of government. This is one that's in the purview of government."

Civil servants retiring in 2017 and later will have to pay half of their premiums for life, health, dental and vision coverage, which is currently covered by the province.

The eligibility period for retiree benefits would rise from 10 to 20 years for workers who are hired from Jan. 1, 2017 onward or who have less than a decade of pension credit by that time.

Milloy said the changes will save the government an estimated $1.2 billion over five years. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Local dentist brightens teeth — and charity's day

Dentists are known for giving their patients a bright smile, but that's usually a result of the work done in a clinic.

London's Dr. Manu Panwar has once again found a different — and far less painful — way to give many people a smile all at the same time: He has dug deep into his pockets for local charity Anago, and the folks there couldn't be happier.

"Dr. Panwar has graciously offered us 150 tickets to sell for Billy Bishop Goes to War," said Anago executive director Mandy Bennett. "He did the same thing for us last year and we were able to make over $15,000. If we can sell all of our sponsorships this year, we'll make the same amount."

Anago is a not-for-profit organization that operates the King Street Detention Centre, the Genest Detention Centre for Youth and the Anago-Parkhill Therapeutic Care Residence for female youth who have complex needs and are in need of protection.

Anago's developmental-services program supports adults with intellectual disabilities across southwestern Ontario, with locations in London, Strathroy and Exeter communities.

The play features the Stratford and Shaw festivals' Kyle Blair as Billy Bishop. Blair is from London and was a student at Lester B. Pearson and Oakridge Secondary schools.

"The Friday, March 7, performance will be the one that supports Anago," Bennett said.

If you'd like to order tickets, call 519-435-1099 ext. 0, or visit anago.on.ca. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Arrest. Man charged for recording staff in London restaurant bathroom

A man has been charged with secretly recording people in the staff washroom at a fast-food restaurant in London.

Police aren't saying which restaurant it was, but they have said the general public are not affected, as the washroom was not accessible to the public.

London police acted after a report on Monday that an employee had placed a recording device in the unisex staff washroom. An iPhone was found by a staff member in the room.

On Tuesday, a 29-year-old London man was arrested. A warrant was executed at his home and several electronic devices were seized. The investigation is continuing.

As a result of the investigation, Curtis Mt. Pleasant has been charged with secretly observing/recording a person expecting privacy.

He has been released from custody with a court date of March 27.

METRO

Western U students go to bat for Cuba

Study Abroad.
Humanitarian help sees $10,000 worth of bats head south

DAVE LANGFORD
dave.langford@metronews.ca

Western kinesiology professor Darwin Semotiuk swings the Original Maple Bat Corporation baseball bat that he and his students took with them to Cuba. COURTESY PAUL MAYNE/WESTERN NEWS

Each March for the past six years, Western University kinesiology professor Darwin Semotiuk has been taking a group of his students to Cuba.

It's all part of the Study Abroad course, offered as an academic credit to senior graduate and undergraduate students. The course involved thirteen weeks of classes and eight days in Cuba.

"It's been a really great experience for our students and one that we've been able to factor in a humanitarian component, so the idea of giving more than taking is very much present," Semotiuk said.

Through some modest fund-raising and some knocking on doors, the Western group has headed south with their hands full each year.

This year more so than others.

The WestJet flight with Semotiuk and the 11 students also carried 60 baseball bats, courtesy of The Original Maple Bat Corporation in Ottawa and its president and owner Arlene Anderson.

Estimated cost of the bats? $10,000. Value to baseball-mad Cubans? Priceless.

The windfall was the result of a cold call made by Western student Nan Zhang, who grew up in Ottawa and was well aware of the company and its bats.

Many major-league players have used them, including Barry Bonds on his way to his record 73 homers in 2001.

A former second baseman with the national junior team program, Zhang used the Maple Bats growing up and he was hoping an email to Anderson might produce some results.

But even he was shocked with the windfall.

"I thought it was just right to do something to help give back to the game that has given me so much, especially in Cuba where baseball there is the biggest sport," Zhang, 20, said.

Semotiuk said the program is set up each year with the help of the Cuban government, specifically with INDER which is its equivalent of Sport Canada.

"They (INDER) set up the program, so we are visiting schools, high-performance sports centres, taking in cultural performances and athletic performances. Like this year, for instance, there is a major international wrestling tournament that we'll have a chance to see," Semotiuk said.

Semotiuk added one bat was specially created for Christian Molina, president of INDER.

Go online

For the latest local news, visit metronews.ca.

Reusing

Everybody pitching in

Semotiuk and the students filled large football bags with items such as tennis balls, lacrosse sticks, Fox 40 whistles — "they're incredibly popular because they can't get them," Semotiuk said — and gifts from No Frills, McDonald's and others.

"Another really good source has been the lost and found at the Western recreation centre. So a lot of those items — for example, the basketballs, volleyballs — have been stuff they were looking to pitch out and they will get a really good use there."

Conservatives want public sector unions to bid on government work

The Progressive Conservatives want to force Ontario's public sector unions to compete for contracts to provide government services in order to save taxpayers money.

Opposition Leader Tim Hudak says unions should bid against private companies to provide various government services, with the province's new financial accountability office determining which areas should be open to competition.

In the legislature, Hudak accused Premier Kathleen Wynne of being in the pocket of public sector unions, which he said were rewarded for supporting the Liberals.

He said the Liberals "are on the side of the special interests who are getting rich off these fat contracts."

Wynne mocked Hudak's claim that contracting out provincial services would save money as "magical thinking," and said he had no proof to back it up.

Hudak says the Conservatives would not contract out police, health or teaching services, but would look at competitive bids for things such as email hosting, transportation, food and laundry services in jails and even employment training.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Going blue raises green to make children's wishes come true

'These kids are my heroes.' Make-A-Wish fundraiser a hairy event

SCOTT TAYLOR
scott.taylor@metronews.ca

They weren't the real Blue Man Group, but the show they put on will be appreciated for years to come.

Make-A-Wish Southwestern Ontario board members Craig Emptage and David Swift had their hair coloured blue and then, just when the new 'do was beginning to suit them, off it all fell to the floor thanks to the expert shearing of Marvel Beauty School hair stylists.

The stunt was part of the annual Go Blue! Go Bald! fundraiser for Make-A-Wish to help children's wishes come true.

CEO Lori Quick said the event has raised more than $900,000 over the past eight years for kids with life-threatening medical conditions.

"We have over 120 Wish families on the go right now, so this really helps out," she said.

Emptage said he enjoys going blue and bald because it's a fun way to do something serious.

"We don't get too many chances to be a goof at age 44, while doing some good work for a great charity. These kids are my heroes with everything they have to face and this is a small price to pay and it'll grow back," he said.

He said his wife and daughters have grown used to the annual change in appearance. They don't mind his chrome dome, but weren't fond of the faux hawk he once wore home.

While this was the official kickoff, the main event will happen March 6 from 5 to 8 p.m. at Westmount Shopping Centre.

The public can support Make-A-Wish Southwestern Ontario by participating in Go Blue! Go Bald! in a number of ways. Visit swo.makeawish.ca/gobluegobald to find out more.

A good cause

- 2013 granted 64 wishes.
- One wish has already been granted this year.
- Make-A-Wish Southwestern Ontario has granted 1,060 wishes since 1986.

Hair stylist Danielle Plumb takes fiendish delight as she shears the blue hair of Craig Emptage during the Make-A-Wish Go Blue! Go Bald! fundraiser Wednesday in London. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Terror trial turns into war of words over Arabic-English translation

An RCMP constable's credibility was questioned Wednesday during the trial of a London, Ont. doctor accused of participating in an alleged terror plot.

Const. Driss Drissi was responsible for translating parts of a tapped phone conversation from Arabic to English in a covert RCMP operation that led to the arrest of Dr. Khurram Syed Sher in 2010 for allegedly co-conspiring on terrorist attacks.

Defence lawyer Michael Edelson challenged Drissi's translation abilities and accused him of "injecting opinion" into the transcript.

When pressed by Edelson, Drissi admitted that his background is not in translation beyond informal training with the RCMP in Montreal. He often referred to Arabic-English dictionaries and the Quranic Arabic Corpus for Islamic meanings.

"They are all accurate to the transcription described," said Drissi, who was born in Morocco and speaks fluent Arabic.

Edelson said he was "struggling to understand" why other RCMP officers trained in translation did not take on the task, but Drissi said there were 85,000 phone calls intercepted and too few people to translate.

"Just looking in a dictionary doesn't necessarily give the context of a word," said Edelson. "You still have to determine how it's being used."

Lawyers have previously clashed on the accuracy of an audio recording in the Sher trial. But this time, it boiled down to the Arabic translations.

For example, the word "kafir," which means "non-Muslim," was translated as "infidel" on the transcript.

"You are injecting opinion," said Edelson. "You have injected a negative connotation here."

Drissi denied the allegation and said there could have been more derogatory terms associated with "kafir." Drissi also translated "kauraj," which could mean "departure," or "exiting," as its Islamic definition: "physical Jihad."

Sher, a pathologist in London, Ont., has pleaded not guilty to his charge of terror conspiracy. Two other alleged Ottawa co-conspirators cannot be named under a publication ban.

Sher's trial continues Thursday. LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO IN OTTAWA

Video, audio included

Court to release evidence

Media will have controlled access to jihad propaganda, audio from a tapped phone conversation and other evidence in a terror conspiracy trial, a judge ruled on Wednesday.

Justice Charles Hackland said the video, audio and agreed statement of facts in the trial of Dr. Khurram Syed Sher will all be made available to journalists starting Thursday morning.

LUCY SCHOLEY/METRO IN OTTAWA

$50K. Application format easier, quicker for Venture London's 6th edition

Growing businesses in London can now more easily compete for a share of $50,000 in cash and prizes.

The Venture London Business Competition has launched its sixth annual contest with a new look and online application process that eliminates the need for participants to submit full business plans, a previous entry requirement.

"The new online application requires owners to provide the key information they would include in a business plan, but in a much more concise and condensed form," said Venture London steering committee chair Nancy Kopriva in a release. "The login and password feature allows participants to save their applications to work on them at their own pace and include web links, testimonials, and other supporting documents."

Open to planned and new businesses existing for less than three years, judging takes place in two rounds, beginning with the online application. First-round judges will review the applications and choose finalists who will then present their businesses before a final panel. Winners will be announced at an Awards Celebration in June.

The application deadline is April 2. SCOTT TAYLOR/METRO

Online

Visit venturelondon.ca for additional details.

Hide-and-seek. RCMP hopes pig carcass will lead to missing bodies

The Saskatchewan RCMP is hoping a bright-orange pig carcass will help them locate missing bodies in Saskatchewan's River System.

Equipped with a radio transmitter and GPS tracker, members of the RCMP's major crimes historical case unit (HCU) placed the 180-pound pig into the South Saskatchewan River at the Saskatoon Canoe Club on Wednesday morning.

"The whole idea of this project is to track this pig's movements as it flows down the river and hopefully, that will give us some insight as to where bodies end up," said Cpl. Tyler Hadland, of the HCU, noting six bodies are presumed to be in the South Saskatchewan River.

"The Saskatoon historical case unit has been annually searching the river, by plane and by boat, for the past number of years and we haven't been able to recover any of these bodies," he said. "So it's quite a mystery."

A member of the Saskatchewan RCMP places a bright-orange pig carcass into the South Saskatchewan River at the Saskatoon Canoe Club on Wednesday morning.
MORGANMODJESKI/METRO IN SASKATOON

RCMP said Wednesday's launch is the projects' second phase, as a pig-carcass with similar tracking devices was placed into the North Saskatchewan River in North Battleford in the fall of 2013.

However, the carcass only travelled 20 kilometres before it was found on a sandbar a week later. **MORGAN MODJESKI/ METRO IN SASKATOON**

Cruise ship. Worker accused of rape, trying to throw victim off balcony

A cruise ship worker from Indonesia is accused of raping a passenger aboard a Holland America Line vessel and then trying to throw her overboard, authorities said Tuesday.

The FBI reports that 28-year-old Ketut Pujayasa was arrested Sunday when the MS Nieuw Amsterdam returned to Port Everglades in Fort Lauderdale. The incident occurred early Friday morning in international waters off the coast of Roatan, Honduras.

According to a criminal complaint, the victim — a 31-year-old U.S. woman — told investigators she was attacked and raped in her stateroom. The attacker tried to throw her from the balcony, but she escaped and received help from another passenger.

Pujayasa initially left the room but then turned himself in. The report says the Indonesian man told investigators he attacked the victim because she had disrespected him earlier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Craigslist

Police unsure of woman's killer spree claim

Police have yet to substantiate a 19-year-old woman's claim that she killed more than 20 people in four states before the Pennsylvania murder she is now charged with committing.

Northumberland County District Attorney Tony Rosini said in a statement Tuesday "there has been no verification of any of the information that has been the subject of media coverage" in the case of Miranda Barbour, who with husband Elytte Barbour is awaiting trial in the death of a man they're accused of luring through a Craigslist ad for companionship.

Miranda Barbour, in a Friday prison interview with The Daily Item in Sunbury, claimed to have killed at least 22 people in Alaska, Texas, North Carolina and California in the past six years as part of her involvement in a satanic cult.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Suspended Senator Patrick Brazeau has found work at the Barefax strip club, shown near Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Wednesday.
FRED CHARTRAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brazeau lands gig at strip joint

New job. Brazeau has been without a steady Senate paycheque since his suspension in November

Patrick Brazeau has gone from sitting in the Senate to helping run a strip club.

The suspended senator, who faces criminal charges in connection with the expense scandal that roiled the august upper chamber last year, is now working as a manager at an Ottawa strip joint.

Brazeau has been spotted inside the Barefax Gentlemen's Club in recent days, but he declined Wednesday to speak to reporters camped outside the establishment who trailed him inside to the door of his office.

Carmelina Bentivoglio, the daughter of the club's owner, said Brazeau interviewed for a job as a day manager two weeks ago. He'll be responsible for "scheduling, hiring, firing, inventory — just like any other job," she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Odd jobs

Patrick Brazeau also tried his hand as a columnist for the Halifax version of Frank magazine, but was canned after one-and-a-half columns, prompting an apology from the editor for subjecting readers to Brazeau's "narcissistic ramblings."

- Brazeau will oversee between 25 and 30 employees in his new job, which he started Monday.

Patrick Brazeau THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

Heart surgery in 140 characters or less

It has allowed us to share in the exploration of space. And now Twitter is taking us into the mysteries of the human heart.

The 140-character social platform, used to extraordinary effect by Canadian astronaut Commander Chris Hadfield last year, will host a cardiac bypass surgery on Thursday.

The social media team of Toronto's Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre will live tweet a CABG. The acronym, pronounced "cabbage," stands for coronary artery bypass graft.

Beginning at 8 a.m. EST, @Sunnybrook will be tweeting updates and images of the surgery bearing the hashtag #SBheart. People interested can pose questions which will be answered in real time.

Hospital spokeswoman Marie Sanderson says the idea behind the event is to educate the public about heart disease. The event will be archived at sunnybrook.ca/Sbheart.

The hospital believes it will be the first Canadian facility to live tweet heart surgery. But it's definitely not the first to bring the twittersphere into the operating room.

In 2012 Memorial Hermann Hospital in Houston, Texas, live tweeted brain surgery to an audience estimated to be 14.5 million people. And last fall a British hospital gave tweeps a front-row seat for a cataract surgery.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Escaping the death grip

Snake on the loose.
An Alberta man is lucky to be alive after his Burmese python coiled around him

MARCO VIGLIOTTI
Metro in Regina

The Burmese python is one of the world's five largest snakes. GETTY IMAGES FILE

Say that one day your beloved pet, whom you had watched sprout since his infancy, managed to break free of his warm, well-ventilated enclosure and began to wriggle his frame around you.

If you had any time to think, you might reflect that although you've been a benevolent caretaker all this time, you're now gasping for air as the ungrateful pet squeezes you ever tighter. Heartbreaking stuff, right?

The pet in question isn't a Labradoodle, and this isn't a story from somewhere in Southeast Asia.

Rather, it's a true tale that involves one of the largest snakes on the planet — the feared Burmese python — and a basement in Alberta.

"(The owner) had this rather large dangerous snake he kept in his basement," explained Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, who did not specify the location of the home. "He went down there to check on it and because it was loose it started to coil around him."

Luckily, the man was able to escape — albeit with a newfound and well-deserved fear of the tropical snake. He quickly called conservation officers to help him handle the creature.

The Burmese python is one of the world's five biggest snakes, a collection that also includes the African rock python. The latter is the same species of snake that killed two boys in New Brunswick last summer after escaping from its cage.

Unlike that situation, in which it appears the owner didn't have a permit, the owner in Alberta was able to legally possess the snake thanks to a grandfathering clause in provincial regulations.

"It was during a time in which we were changing regulations and becoming more strict," Dunford explained. "(The owner) got a shelter permit because he possessed it legally before we made our regulations more restrictive, so we grandfathered the possession of certain pets for a time."

Quoted

"After a day they went in there and because the temperature was much cooler, the snake was so lethargic that it was not aggressive at all."

Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, describing how officials corralled a loose Burmese python.

Once officers arrived, they developed a game plan to safely apprehend the snake.

As the Burmese python thrives in blisteringly hot conditions, Dunford said, officers decided to turn off the heat in the house in hopes that cooler conditions would slow the snake down.

It worked. "After a day, they went in there and because the temperature was much cooler, the snake was so lethargic that it was not aggressive at all," he explained. "They were able actually to help the owner simply get it back into its secure container."

But this is Canada — could I really meet a pet crocodile on the loose?*

The deaths of two young boys in New Brunswick last summer at the hands of an escaped African rock python alerted the country to the potential dangers of unusual pets.

But is there really such a threat in famously frigid Canada of encountering somebody's dangerous exotic animal?

It appears to depend on where you live, but generally, it seems that Canada poses a far bigger threat to odd pets than they do to us.

"Fortunately (in Alberta) we haven't had too many issues with exotics getting into the wild," Pat Dunford, an Alberta conservation officer, told Metro, noting the province does have a detailed action plan to handle these sorts of situations.

He said dangerous animals imported from sunnier locales, such as tropical snakes, would probably only survive during the summer months and wouldn't "last long when the temperature gets colder."

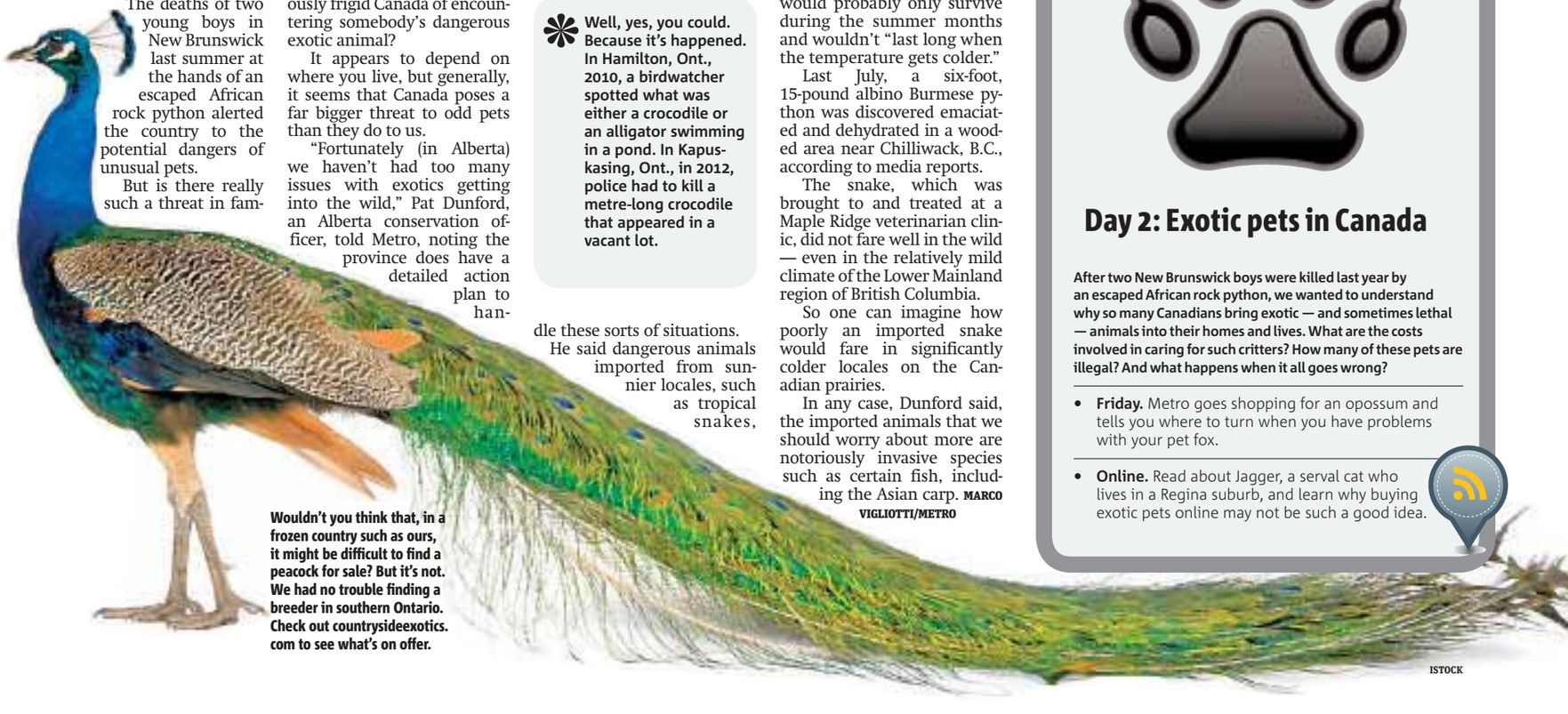
Last July, a six-foot, 15-pound albino Burmese python was discovered emaciated and dehydrated in a wooded area near Chilliwack, B.C., according to media reports.

The snake, which was brought to and treated at a Maple Ridge veterinarian clinic, did not fare well in the wild — even in the relatively mild climate of the Lower Mainland region of British Columbia.

So one can imagine how poorly an imported snake would fare in significantly colder locales on the Canadian prairies.

In any case, Dunford said, the imported animals that we should worry about more are notoriously invasive species such as certain fish, including the Asian carp. MARCO VIGLIOTTI/METRO

* **Well, yes, you could. Because it's happened. In Hamilton, Ont., 2010, a birdwatcher spotted what was either a crocodile or an alligator swimming in a pond. In Kapuskasing, Ont., in 2012, police had to kill a metre-long crocodile that appeared in a vacant lot.**


Wouldn't you think that, in a frozen country such as ours, it might be difficult to find a peacock for sale? But it's not. We had no trouble finding a breeder in southern Ontario. Check out countrysideexotics.com to see what's on offer.

ISTOCK

Day 2: Exotic pets in Canada

After two New Brunswick boys were killed last year by an escaped African rock python, we wanted to understand why so many Canadians bring exotic — and sometimes lethal — animals into their homes and lives. What are the costs involved in caring for such critters? How many of these pets are illegal? And what happens when it all goes wrong?

- **Friday.** Metro goes shopping for an opossum and tells you where to turn when you have problems with your pet fox.
- **Online.** Read about Jagger, a serval cat who lives in a Regina suburb, and learn why buying exotic pets online may not be such a good idea.

The hot-button hedgehog

Sure, they're cute, but in some parts of the U.S., they also seem to be controversial —partly, it appears, because of a debate over whether they spread foot-and-mouth disease. According to online forum hedgehogcentral.com, the animals are illegal in California, Hawaii, Georgia and the five boroughs of New York City. Maine has also had restrictions, and the site describes the situation in Pennsylvania as "all out war on hedgehogs within the state."

Hedgehog advocates insist the animals are not a problem. Z.G. Standing Bear, treasurer of the International Hedgehog Association, told Torstar News Service last year that six U.S. states and several cities ban hedgehogs for "all kinds of reasons" based on "no facts at all." "They're benign. There is nothing dangerous about them. That's what irritates us so much; they get this bad reputation," he said.

Hedgehogs may be in for a tough time north of the border, too. Last year, a Toronto city councillor asked municipal staff to study adding animals including hedgehogs to the city's list of prohibited species. Flamingoes, penguins, walruses, vultures and seals are also in his sights. METRO

ISTOCK

An African pygmy hedgehog

What happens when it all goes wrong

In the past couple of decades, there've been a number of high-profile cases in Canada of exotic pets killing their owners:

• In 2007, 32-year-old Tanya Dumstrey-Soos was mauled by a tiger owned by her fiancé at a farm in 100 Mile House, B.C., while several children, including one of her own, watched. It's thought that the tiger didn't intentionally attack her, but rather was trying to play with her skirt as she stood outside its enclosure talking to it. The tiger, Gangus, was the only one of three tigers on the farm who wasn't declawed, and Dumstrey-Soos died of her injuries. Animals on the farm also included a lion and a lemur, and a variety of officials and animal welfare advocates said they'd had ongoing concerns about the farm.

• In 1992, 28-year-old Mark Neville of Brampton, Ont., was strangled to death by his five-metre-long pet Burmese python. At the time, the death prompted calls for consistent legislation on exotic pets, but unlike many provinces, Ontario still doesn't have provincial standards on the issue.

The investigating coroner said Neville had visited a friend's house where there was a shedding cat, and it's believed that later, when he put his hand in the python's enclosure, it smelled food and attacked.

• In early 2010, 66-year-old Norman Buwalda was killed at his home in Southwold, Ont., as he entered the cage of a 650-pound Siberian tiger. No one witnessed the attack, and police said they don't know why it happened. Buwalda was the chairman of the Canadian Exotic Animal Owner's Association, and had five wild cats, including a lion and a cougar. Six years previously, a 350-pound tiger seriously injured a boy visiting the property. METRO

You know that an octopus can make a tasty deep-fried appetizer, but did you know people keep them as pets? Read Metro tomorrow to find out which Hollywood star once had a cephalopod about the house.

ISTOCK

'If you're not prepared to devote your life to your pet monkey, please don't get one'

Lessons from Darwin.
The former owner of the Ikea monkey says having a primate in the house takes time, energy and resources

ROSS ROMANIUK
Metro in Regina

After her pet monkey's romp around a Toronto-area Ikea, Yasmin Nakhuda has been struggling to get it back. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

She and what had been her pet monkey have made headlines in Canada for more than a year, since the primate managed to get out of her car outside a Toronto Ikea store and scamper around the property in late 2012.

Yasmin Nakhuda, a Toronto lawyer, is trying to get Darwin back through an appeal of an Ontario court ruling that has since kept the monkey at a primate sanctuary.

Metro asked Nakhuda about her case, and about having primates as pets.

Are you optimistic about your chance of reclaiming legal ownership of Darwin through your court appeal?
We are still trying to get him back but since the matter is still being reviewed for appeal purposes, I cannot make any further comments regarding chances of winning.

Do you feel that monkeys such as Darwin make good pets for people in Canada?
Monkeys are not pets for everyone. But if the owner is very dedicated, loving, educated about primate needs and ready and willing to learn, then a monkey can be more than a pet — it can become part of one's family. Monkeys are intelligent and it is untrue that all monkeys are aggressive. Some monkeys work as licensed waiters in Japan, while others are trained and work as helpers for the disabled.

Visit metronews.ca to watch a video of monkeys working as waiters in Japan.

Do you have any advice for other people who might be considering trying to acquire monkeys or other animals that are deemed exotic or foreign to Canada?
If you are not prepared to devote your life to your pet monkey, then please don't get one. However, if you do and you are able to earn the love and respect of your pet monkey, a pet monkey can be one of the greatest companions you can have in your life.

As for other exotic pets, I own an African Grey parrot and a Scarlet Macaw and they are equally great pets given their intelligence, but again, they need a lot of attention and care and one has to be able to afford expensive toys, food and supplements on an ongoing basis.

Have an adventure with Darwin

Darwin's Ikea shopping trip may be over in real life, but it continues online in the form of a video game which you can find at ikeamonkeyshirt.com. Barnabas Wornoff, an animation professor at Toronto's Seneca College, took about a week to create the game with a group of former students. Players can control the shearling coat-wearing monkey as it wanders through the parking lot in search of Allen keys, pegs and other parts needed to build a Billy wall shelf, all the while dodging rogue shopping carts and Ikea customers. Wornoff said the monkey dances when the game is completed. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sochi

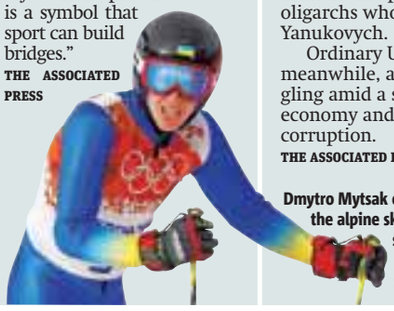
IOC president praises Ukraine's athletes

IOC president Thomas Bach has expressed his condolences to victims of the violence in Ukraine and praised Ukraine's Olympic athletes for continuing to compete at the Sochi Games.

Ukraine sent a team of 43 athletes to Sochi.

Bach says "the way they have continued to represent their nation with great dignity is a credit to them and their country." He says "their presence here is a symbol that sport can build bridges."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Dmytro Mytsak of Ukraine during the alpine skiing men's giant slalom in Sochi on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

Europe

EU debating sanctions against Ukraine

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius told reporters that he and his counterparts from Germany and Poland would meet both sides in Ukraine ahead of the EU meeting on possible sanctions. He said he hoped the two sides "will find a way for dialogue."

Possible sanctions include travel bans and asset freezes, which could hit hard the powerful oligarchs who back Viktor Yanukovych.

Ordinary Ukrainians, meanwhile, are struggling amid a stagnating economy and soaring corruption.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anti-government protesters protect themselves with shields during clashes with riot police in Independence Square, the epicentre of the country's current unrest, in Kyiv, Ukraine, Wednesday, before the president and leaders of the protest called a truce. SERGEI CHUZAVKOV/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ukraine calls a truce

Negotiations. Earlier violence that killed 26 had fuelled fears the nation could be sliding toward a messy breakup

Ukraine's embattled president and leaders of the protests that have been roiling the country agreed Wednesday on a truce to halt the violence that has killed 26 people and injured more than 425 others.

A protest leader was quoted as saying the government pledged not to attack an opposition encampment in central Kyiv while further negotiations unfold.

President Viktor Yanukovych met with opposition leaders and the two sides agreed to halt the violence and to hold talks on ending bloodshed, a statement on the presidential website said. The statement did not give any further details.

Vitali Klitschko, one of the leaders of the protests that have sought to keep Ukraine open to Europe and out of a close political and economic alliance with Russia, was quoted by the Interfax news agency as saying that Yanukovych agreed that there would be no attempt to storm the protesters' encampment on the main square of downtown Kyiv.

Flames from burning barricades of tires and refuse leapt into the air at the square for a second night, as protesters demanding Yanukovych's resignation showed no sign of yielding.

The truce announcement came hours after the president replaced the army chief and the military vowed a national anti-terrorist operation to restore order.

Officials have often referred to the protesters who have demanded Yanukovych's resignation for months as "terrorists."

Political and diplomatic manoeuvring has continued, with both Moscow and the West eager to gain influence over this former Soviet republic. Three EU foreign ministers — from Germany, France and Poland — were heading to Kyiv on Thursday to speak with both sides before an emergency EU meeting back in Brussels to consider sanctions against those responsible for the recent violence in Ukraine.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An issue of identity

The recent violence has been the worst in nearly three months of anti-government protests that have paralyzed Kyiv.

- The two sides are locked in a battle over the identity of this nation of 46 million, whose loyalties are divided between Russia and the West.

Russia. Cossacks attack Pussy Riot members with horsewhips over protest

Cossack militia attacked the Pussy Riot punk group with horsewhips on Wednesday as the artists — who have feuded with Vladmir Putin's government for years — tried to perform under a sign advertising the Sochi Olympics.

Six group members — five women and one man — donned their signature ski masks and were pulling out a guitar and microphone as at least 10 Cossacks and other security officials moved in. One Cossack appeared to use pepper spray. Another whipped several group members while other Cossacks ripped off their masks and threw the guitar in a garbage can.

Police arrived and questioned witnesses, but no one was arrested.

Pussy Riot, a performance-art collective involving a loose membership of feminists who edit their actions into music videos, has become an international flashpoint for those who contend Putin's government has exceeded its authority, particularly restricting human and gay rights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Cossack militiaman attacks Nadezhda Tolokonnikova and a photographer as she and fellow members of the punk group Pussy Riot, including Maria Alekhina, right, in the pink balaclava, stage a protest performance in Sochi, Russia, on Wednesday. MORRY GASH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

North America

Ex-pats react tentatively to news of truce

Ukrainians living in the United States and Canada reacted with tentative optimism Wednesday to news of a truce in the violence-torn country, while still shedding tears for their homeland and nervously wondering what will come next.

Yaakov Dov Bleich, who is the chief rabbi of Kyiv and Ukraine but splits his time between there and New York City, reacted cautiously when interviewed in New York. He noted the enormity of clashes between government forces and protesters Tuesday that left at least 26 people dead.

Ukraine, he said, won't work as a dictatorship.

"Certain red lines were crossed yesterday," Bleich said. "I think it's going to be very hard to rebuild trust between people and the president."

The United States raised the prospect Wednesday of joining partners in Europe to impose sanctions against Ukraine, and the European Union called an extraordinary meeting of its 28 member countries on Thursday to address the situation.

Later, President Viktor Yanukovych and leaders of the protests agreed to halt the violence. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Loretta Saunders
COURTESY HALIFAX REGIONAL POLICE

Missing woman's car found in Ontario

'Very suspicious.' Two charged with possession of stolen vehicle owned by Halifax student, who was reported missing on Monday

Halifax police are now treating the disappearance of a 26-year-old woman as suspicious after her car was found in Ontario.

Loretta Saunders was reported missing by her family on Monday after she was last seen in Halifax last Thursday. Investigators say her car was discovered Tuesday night in Harrow, Ont., south of Windsor.

A 25-year-old man and 28-year-old woman were arrested by the OPP on charges of possession of a stolen vehicle and for outstanding warrants.

Halifax police Const. Pierre Bourdages says the man and woman know Saunders, but he declined to provide further details on the nature of their relationship.

Bourdages says police are treating the Saunders case as suspicious because she is normally in touch with her family in Newfoundland and Labrador.

"She was known to be in contact with family and friends several times a day," he said Wednesday.

"Given the fact her vehicle was located with two other people in Ontario, that makes the circumstances very suspicious."

Police say they don't know exactly how the car ended up in the province, but they are asking anyone who may have seen Saunders or her car, a Toyota Celica with a Newfoundland and Labrador licence plate of HCP 543, to come forward.

Saunders, a student at Saint Mary's University in Halifax, is an Inuk woman, five-foot-seven and about 120 pounds, with light brown straight hair.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sarnia. Second man arrested after cat shot in head with pellet gun

A second man has been arrested in an animal cruelty case involving a cat in southwestern Ontario that suffered as many as 17 pellet wounds to the head.

The cat — named "Joe" — was rescue earlier this month in Brights Grove, east of Sarnia, and is said to be in stable condition.

A 20-year-old Sarnia man was arrested early Wednesday and police say he will be charged with two animal cruelty offences.

A 19-year-old man, also from Sarnia, was arrested last Thursday and was charged with two counts of animal cruelty.

That man was also charged with drug possession and two counts of possession for the purpose of trafficking after police say officers found oxycodone, codeine and marijuana during a search of his home.

The Sarnia and District Humane Society has said Joe had surgery to remove the pellets, but that the cat lost an eye due to his injuries. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Twitter

Popular Rob Ford parody account suspended

Twitter has suspended one of the most popular Toronto Mayor Rob Ford parody accounts.

Richard Feren, the man behind @TOMayorFrod, was notified around 11 a.m. Wednesday after sending out a few tweets that morning, including: "My condolences to my friend Vladimir Putin whose hockey team was bullied out of the Olympics by gay-loving Finland."

A Twitter spokesperson said it has a policy against commenting on personal accounts. But an email Twitter sent Feren late Wednesday said Twitter had "received a complaint that your account … may be in violation of Twitter's policies on impersonation and/or trademark."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Seeds of discontent grow among Greek farmers

A farmer shouts slogans during a protest outside the Greek parliament against government tax policies in Athens on Wednesday. About 4,000 people, including civil servant unions, took part in the peaceful demonstration outside the House of Parliament. Greece's conservative-led government has committed to continue spending cuts and economic reforms in exchange for billions of euros in international rescue loans. THANASSIS STAVRAKIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Our true patriot love for Facebook

O (boy) Canada. With glowing faces ... from our smartphones we stand on guard for the social network

Canada was one of the first countries to go completely crazy for Facebook and now the social network is saying we're leading the charge with mobile usage, too.

There are 19 million Canadians who access Facebook at least once a month and 14 million who log in every single day, says Jordan Banks, the head of Facebook Canada. Those numbers haven't really changed since the summer, but mobile is growing.

The number of users who log in with a phone or tablet at least once a month is now at 15 million, up about 15 per cent from 13 million. And the number of mobile users accessing Facebook daily is up about six per cent to 10 million, from 9.4 million in August.

"We're seeing people check their phones 20 times a day for Facebook — status updates and news feed posts and checking in — so it's really become like a Canadian reflex, if you will, to access your phone, whether you're at a bus stop or a hockey game," said Banks. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Record-breaking buy

Facebook is buying mobile messaging service WhatsApp for up to $19 billion US in cash and stock, by far the company's largest acquisition.

Agenda. Keystone pipeline top of mind for Harper while in Mexico for summit

Prime Minister Stephen Harper met with leaders from the company behind the Keystone XL pipeline Wednesday — just hours before he was set to again press U.S. President Barack Obama to approve the controversial project.

Harper's meeting with TransCanada officials occurred in Mexico City before he was to travel to Toluca for the so-called Three Amigos summit with Obama and Mexico's Enrique Peña Nieto. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Nebraska

The Keystone XL pipeline was dealt another setback — this time in a Nebraska courtroom. A district court has torn up a state law that could have been used to force landowners to allow the pipeline on their property.

Rogers biggest buyer

Wireless spectrum auction raises $5.27B for feds

The federal government raked in $5.27 billion in the latest wireless spectrum auction, the most Ottawa has ever received in such a sale. Industry Canada announced Wednesday that the biggest buyer of the 20-year licenses was Rogers, which paid $3.29 billion for 22 licenses across the country, except in the Yukon, Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Telus spent just over $1.14 billion for 30 licenses, while Bell spent $565.7 million for 31 licenses. In total, the auction saw some 10 bidders participate, with eight of them winning licenses. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. chairman

FCC set to propose new Internet neutrality rules

The Federal Communications Commission in the U.S. says it won't appeal a court decision that struck down rules it designed to ensure that the transmission of all Internet content be treated equally. The agency says it will fashion new rules.

The chairman of the FCC announced Wednesday that the agency will rewrite the anti-discrimination and anti-blocking rules following the ruling by a federal appeals court last month. The ruling said the FCC has the authority to regulate broadband providers' treatment of Internet traffic but the agency failed to establish that its regulations don't overreach. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

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OLYMPICS BRING OUT THE WORST

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

Olympic officials love to wax eloquent about how sports can help us celebrate humanity as one, as can be illustrated in this history of the Games:

1896: The modern Olympic Games are created to promote world peace.

1897: World peace declared.

This timeline, though exhaustive, is not wholly accurate. In fact, the Olympics solve society's problems with only the same proficiency that pop songs alleviate world hunger.

While I won't claim to know the hearts of the amazing athletes, I can talk about the average sports fans' humanity during these Olympics in Sochi. Their emotions are not always the Olympian ideal.

Rage: Sports always attracts angry fans: hockey fans who would gladly dismember a 14-year-old linesman; baseball fans apoplectic about strike calls they can't possibly see; MMA fans who fill in most of evolution's missing links. But the Olympics teach us that the most terrifying creature of all is the figure skating fan who is convinced their favourite skaters were stiffed.

It's satisfying in a way. People who mock me for yelling at the TV during a Bruins game positively have a Salchow every four years because someone on Team Canada got "robbed." It's an Olympic tradition. This wouldn't happen if Olympic figure skating had fighting like the North American version, but that's a debate for later.

Fear: What do you suppose is the hardest job in the world? Doctor? Air traffic controller? Olympian? No, the Olympics prove time and again that the hardest job is creating a mascot that is not a horrifying abomination.

It's a life rule. There are no funny clowns, no sexy feet and no mascots that will not haunt your dreams. The Athens mascots appeared to be phalluses wearing coloured condoms, perhaps to laud the birth of civilization. The London mascots were one-eyed demon creatures, probably to promote the city's Olympian level of CCTV cameras.

At first the Sochi bear seemed like a fool-proof idea. Who doesn't like teddy bears? However, the version at the opening ceremonies looked like a drunken uncle who should delete his Internet browsing history more often. Meanwhile, the version that stalks Olympic venues almost looks like an everyday bear mascot — except that he has cold, dead shark eyes. He will have children leaving their night lights on until at least the 2016 Summer Games. And who knows what monstrosity we might be faced with then?

Schadenfreude: If my workplace and favourite bar are any indication, two things always get big cheers from crowds at the Olympics:

1.) A Canadian hockey player scores a goal.

2.) An athlete from another country falls over.

The sport might be one fans had not heard of 10 minutes ago — Ladies' Super-G Bobsled Cross — but if there's a chance at gold, we want our opponents crushed. And, if necessary, their pelvises.

In short, the Olympics aren't the best of humanity, on either side of the TV screen. They're just … humanity, which includes braggarts, fools and outright villains, to go along with the kind-hearted, the wise and the heroes.

And despite my cynical take, I still believe in heroes. After all, somebody has to slay the damn bear.

ZOOM

All that glitters isn't gold

ANNE OLLILA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Finnish reindeer dabbed with paint

A reindeer is seen with fluorescent antlers after a test in which Finnish herders dabbed it with fluorescent paint. Rudolph the reindeer is having a glittering antler makeover — the latest attempt to halt some of the thousands of road deaths of the roaming caribou in the wilds of Finland.

Anne Ollila, of the Finnish Reindeer Herders' Association, says the antlers of 20 reindeer have been painted with various fluorescent dyes to see how the animals react and whether the paints are resistant to the harsh Arctic climate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Roaming free

200,000

If successful, animals with glittering antlers will be free to roam Lapland — a vast, deserted area in northern Finland where herders tend to some 200,000 reindeer.

Reflective tape

- The Finnish Reindeer Association says reflectors and reflective tape have proven unsuccessful as reindeer have torn them off — and road signs warning drivers of roaming reindeer often are stolen by tourists as souvenirs.

Clickbait

HANNAH ZITNER
hannah.zitner@metronews.ca

Looks like oversharing social media users are learning from their mishaps as a wave of apps touting online anonymity are quietly creeping into cyberspace. Users wanting to publicly praise or put down that pretty girl, berate their boss or wax poetic have carved out online spaces to do so without having to worry about said pretty girl, boss, etc.

ISTOCKIMAGES

Whisper:
Posts run the gamut from guilty pleasures to deep thoughts (#ThereIsNoProof) in this Tumblr-like confessional space.

Shrtwv:
Location-based sharing means you share your anonymous thoughts, photos, etc., with other Shrtwv users in the same vicinity (no, this is not meant to be the latest Grindr)

Secret:
Like other social media sites, you're still sharing your "secrets" with your pals, but you get to do so incognito.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: The idea of Trudeau rolling papers was originally the Cons' plan to disrupt the Liberals. Do they help or hinder Trudeau's image?

@Russell_Barth: the irony of these papers (AND the #cpc's mad assertions) is that Justin isn't *actually* going to legalize #pot

@chlobotxo: i think it's hilarious. It helps by showing the Cons are traditional bullies

@ac_awesome: So instead of saying he flip-flops, opponents are accusing him of Zigzags.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU:
Send us your comments: londonletters@metronews.ca

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Opening night gets a shake up

Ripping Fabric. Tearing Holes. Queer art duo to turn Forest City into outer space

BACKSTAGE PASS
Mila Petkovic
london@metronews.ca

It's not your typical art opening. Rather than standing around amongst a crowd of observers, the artists will delight with a DJ and hyper-dance set.

"What we lack in DJ skills, we make up for in our dance moves. We are a dancing duo. When people see us moving they will known we were born to dance together," says artist Logan MacDonald half seriously, referring to himself and partner in art Hazel Meyer.

Opening Friday, the show Ripping Fabric. Tearing Holes will use textiles, video, text and patterned wall drawings to transform the Forest City Gallery into an absurd yet compelling universe of queer and futuristic references.

The two artists (now based in Toronto) met 15 years ago at Concordia University, became roommates, best friends, and soon after went around telling people they were brother and sister. Their mutual passion for dancing and queer electro-punk music led them to form the hyper-dancing duo DJ SIS n BRO.

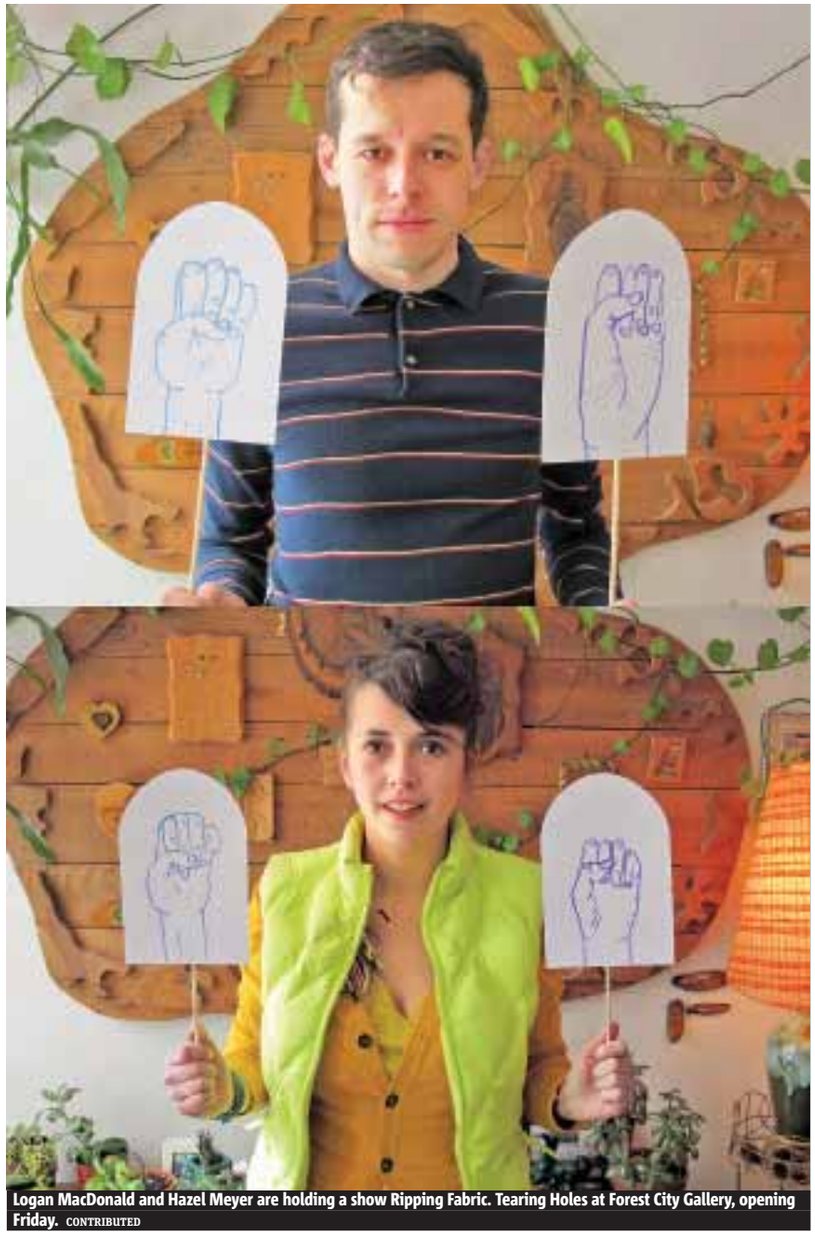
"It became a natural progression to include it with the artwork we make," says MacDonald. "It creates an ambience that makes the art more approachable. It's not just a space with static objects — it's interactive. People want to spend time there."

The show takes place in a slightly comical outer space atmosphere. The artists play with this visual vernacular to explore the queer experience.

"It's hard to represent space without being cheesy, but the text kind of alludes to it. It deals with micro and macro sizing, so things getting bigger and smaller. It plays with the idea of introspection and looking outside of the self — the queer self in the universe, not just on earth," says MacDonald. The art also looks at the complicated relationship between pleasure and pain: The ecstasy in being comfortable with yourself, and the pain of going against the grain.

"It questions fitting in, being isolated, trying to find your community and not feel like you live in a vacuum or like you are lost in space," says MacDonald. The colour Chromakey green, used mostly in the show to reference skin, links all these ideas together.

"Body imagery will be green. It will look alien. Also when you think of video editing, they use that colour to get rid of something — the body that is not supposed to be there," says MacDonald. This highly contemplative yet infinitely playful exhibition opens Friday at Forest City Gallery from 7-10 p.m. and runs until March 21.



Logan MacDonald and Hazel Meyer are holding a show Ripping Fabric. Tearing Holes at Forest City Gallery, opening Friday. CONTRIBUTED

Around town

- **Poetry**. Titilope Sonuga from Edmonton is this month's guest at the London Poetry Slam, taking place Friday at the London Music Club. Doors at 8 p.m. and $5 cover.
- **3 bands, $5**. Solids, Crusades and Wasted Potential are playing Friday at Call the Office. Doors at 9 p.m.

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Katy Perry ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Wedding fireworks for Katy and John?

Katy Perry is sending the gossip world into a tizzy by sporting the same diamond ring on a very suspicious finger for the past few days. The first time, we all chalked it up to her being fashionable — but then the singer had the audacity to wear the art-deco-influenced ring yet again at the Elle Style Awards on Tuesday in London. "What does it mmmmeeee-aaaannnnn?" your brain is undoubtedly asking, since we are all conditioned to be concerned with this for some reason. We wish we knew — so far both the Perry and John Mayer camps are being mum on the situation. One thing is for sure: The only way she could troll us any harder is if she started wearing a fake baby bump.

Ellen and Portia don't need a ring to prove their love

Ellen DeGeneres is eager to put to rest rumours circulating in some tabloids that her marriage to Portia De Rossi is on the rocks. "The tabloids had a photo of Portia not wearing her wedding ring. She goes, 'I didn't wear it because when I ride horses and I'm holding the reins, it gives me a blister,'" DeGeneres explains to People magazine. "The truth is — and this is corny — I fall more in love with Portia all the time. I really do. She surprises me all the time. It's what anyone experiences when you find that person that gets you."

Ellen DeGeneres

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

Hey LaBeouf, why don't you #STARTCREATING your own stuff?

MELINDA TAUB
Metro World News in New York

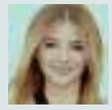
Shia LaBeouf has been all over the tabloids and the blogs and the Twitter lately. But for those who don't follow celebrity gossip on any medium, Shia has them covered too — they just have to look up into the sky.

LaBeouf has taken to skywriting for the third time, hiring planes to write "#STARTCREATING" in the sky above Los Angeles, according to E! Online. His previous messages were "I am sorry Daniel Clowes" and "#STOPCREATING," both in January.

It's great to have Shia's permission to start making stuff. I hope he follows his own advice, since he's never created anything in particular. LaBoeuf's meltdown/art project/generous subsidy to L.A.'s skywriting industry began in December, when his short film, HowardCantour.com, was revealed to be a ripoff of a Daniel Clowes comic, Justin M. Damiano. Since then, he's tweeted a slew of plagiarized quotes and apologies, hired the aforementioned skywriters, and last week held an "art installation" in which he sat in a room with a paper bag over his head reading "I am not famous anymore" while weeping — which some would say was a ripoff of Marina Abromović's The Artist is Present.

In case you can't tell, I am heartily sick of this kid — he ripped an artist off, got caught, and he's been trying to reposition his screw-up as art ever since. I would rather see Justin Bieber get an Oscar than hear another word from LaBeouf on the subject.

Twitter



@ChloeGMoretz
strangest thing just happened to my phone it wouldn't take a charge so i did a full restart and bingo.. charging.. weird.

@NiallOfficial
First time we have all been together for a while now! lookin forward t seeing the lads ! #BRITs2014

@josswhedon
Stairs are so serious

Patrick Stewart

Patrick Stewart has a gay old time with Guardian gaffe

At least Patrick Stewart has a decent sense of humour. The former Star Trek: the Next Generation star was misidentified as gay by the Guardian in an article about X-Men co-star Ellen Page's recent coming out.

"The third paragraph originally said, 'Some gay people, such as Sir Patrick Stewart, think Page's coming out speech is newsworthy.' This should have read, 'Some people, such as Sir Patrick Stewart,'" a statement from the newspaper read. Stewart, who married longtime girlfriend Sunny Ozell in September, took it in stride, posting to Twitter, "It makes for a nice change. At least I didn't wake up to the Internet telling me I was dead again."

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The runway midway

The fashion industry's finest have flocked to New York and London these past two weeks as part of Fall/Winter 2014 Fashion Month. Before they pick up their passports and jet away on the Paris and Milan legs of the journey, here's a taste of what Metro's gurus of glam have witnessed from fashion's front lines thus far.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Tommy Hilfiger (NYC)

The first look? Surprise, surprise, it's plaid. An olive parka, check dress and hiking boots opens the lineup of rugged, outdoorsy looks. The vaguely vintage-flavoured duffle coats, shearling jackets, chunky sweaters, Fair Isle knits and fleece dresses have a sporty athleticism to them that imply Tommy's girls do more than sip hot chocolate inside a lodge.

Major trends: Blanket references in the form of dresses, skirts and coats.

What this will mean for your wardrobe: Durable, classic winter wear that really does marry fashion and function.

Marc by Marc Jacobs (NYC)

The autumn/winter '14 girl is all flamboyant sportiness, dressed for a club night in a mix of ninja and BMX gear. Plus all of the sneaker comebacks we've seen in the past year were rendered forgettable thanks to a single shoe in Crayola shades of red and blue that is part raver, part spaceman.

The major trends: Plays on volume — blanket-style wraps, layering and wide leg trousers.

What this will mean for your wardrobe: Judging by my social media feeds, the shoes were the most memorable takeaway from the show. The more "out there" the sneaker the better.

Bora Aksu (London)

After a handful of monochrome skirted looks, colour appears in the form of Barbie pink. Think Lolita-meets-Victorian-meets-plastic-fantastic. And get ready to embrace that horrible '90s sequin stretch fabric: it's back, sliced into jackets, waistlines and fishtail pencil skirts. Ponchos and capes are popular up top — only, "floatier" than we've seen them before. Here they're more like mosquito nets. Pretty ones, mind you.

The playlist: Lively flamenco with a Carla Bruni interlude.

The key trends: Pink, ponchos, A-line skirts

Issa (London)

The strength, and what unites this collection, with its varying motifs of stamped flowers, bulbous knits and lattice prints, is the size of it all. Everything is big, from the wafting, blanket-like coats that much of the audience is already wearing to the Balenciaga-esque rounded sleeves on outerwear and tops. My standout piece — the wackiest of all the wearable Issa fare — is a zigzag printed monochrome jacket with perfectly curved shoulders.

The major trends: Ponchos and oversized, rounded coats.

What this will mean for your wardrobe in six months' time: Silhouette is going to factor into your buying purchases more than usual.

Vivienne Westwood (London)

This show was about vintage Vivienne Westwood Red Label. Even the colour palette is true to the brand name, with a tongue-in-cheek heart-shaped suit. The looks were positively pared-down: a nostalgic retrospective of eras gone by with headscarves, roomy overcoats, and those ubiquitous Westwood cocktail dresses — all very commercially viable with enough of a dash of the Dame's kook.

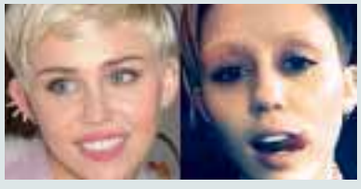
The scene: Vivienne Westwood's faithful friends.

What this will mean for your wardrobe in six months' time: Granny chic with headscarves and oversized practical coats.

Trends Report

Bleached blonde eyebrows may seem odd, but the look was all over the runway at Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week this month and even on raunchy popstar Miley Cyrus. Go online to Trends Report to see which top designer opted for this runway look, which also had one reality TV star modeling a nipple-baring top.

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report



Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Kerry

Age: 27

Occupation: Co-founder, Rockford Peach

What she's wearing: Old pilots shearling coat I bought a couple years ago in Kensington (inspired by my Dad), old polo sweater that was cropped, All Saints pants, Stuart Weitzman boots, vintage belt and bag.

Her inspiration: I dress with instinct, which could very well start with the music that I wake up to. The truth is I like anything that has lived a little bit; clothes that tell a story or move me somehow, and a little oversize never hurt anyone.

THE KIT IS A MULTI-PLATFORM BEAUTY AND FASHION BRAND WHICH INCLUDES AN INTERACTIVE MAGAZINE AND DYNAMIC APP, A WEBSITE, KIT CHAT – AN E-NEWSLETTER PROGRAM – AND A WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SECTION TOO!

Double duty calls if space is tight

Accessorize with objects you can use. Multi-purpose furnishings are the key to living large in a small space

Decorating with a conscious purpose allows homeowners to maximize the space in a small home.

When every square foot is at a premium in a condo, apartment or house, it's important to make sure even the decorative accessories have a use.

"Minimize useless objects," says Angela Robinson, a Vancouver interior designer.

"I know especially in residential design homeowners tend to buy a lot of decorative objects thinking it will make their home feel cosy and more complete, but I think you can achieve that same look and feel by purchasing useful objects that also look pretty."

One of Robinson's suggestions is using sculptural or dramatic salt and pepper shakers in a kitchen instead of buying pieces that take up space without serving a purpose.

Making a small space efficient also requires looking at the overall surfaces of a home differently.

Robinson says homeowners need to look at vertical spaces as opportunities for storage and organization.

"I personally live in a smaller space (my place is about 700 square feet), and one thing I found really helpful for my organization and storage is to maximize my wall and vertical space," she says.

"Inside my cupboard doors I have hung all my pots and pans so they are accessible and I don't have to stack everything."

According to Ottawa interior designer Laura Boisvert, homeowners often either fill their small space with too much furniture or not enough.

Poufs add a fun, playful element to a small space while serving as extra seating or foot stools. COURTESY JANIS NICOLAY

Boisvert says the most common problem her clients face is feeling like they don't have enough storage and seating.

"Either they are afraid that if they add more it will make it feel small, or because they need more storage or seating they purchased furniture that shouldn't belong," she says.

"You have to find a balance and the best way to do this is with pieces of furniture that serve multiple purposes."

Both Boisvert and Robinson say there are various options for homeowners looking to purchase furniture that does double or even triple duty.

From ottomans with self-contained storage to coffee tables with drawers and shelves, Boisvert suggests looking for furniture that will help to maximize a small space.

While having furniture and decorative items that serve a purpose is certainly key to an efficient small space, Boisvert says that paint and lighting can also prove to be good ways to help make a home appear larger.

"Lighter colours recede so they make the space appear larger," she says.

"Lighting is also important to any space especially a smaller one. If you have a really dimly lit space with little lighting it will feel cave-like, darker and smaller than if you have lots of nice lighting."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bigger is better

Instead of filling a small space with many small objects, Angela Robinson recommends using larger bold art and furniture.

- "I think a lot of people think because they are in a smaller, tighter space they should bring in appropriately scaled furniture, artwork and accessories, and I don't necessarily agree with that," she says.
- "I think often with small spaces going with larger-scale or bigger pieces of artwork and accessories along with bolder pieces of furniture, you can actually make a space feel more dramatic and larger than if you were to fill a space with small dainty objects. It's just visually more calming if you bring in fewer larger items than many smaller items."

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Cutlet above the rest

This recipe serves four. PHOTOS LEILA ASHTARI

"Veal cutlets were in regular dinner rotation at home when I was young," writes Stefano Faita in his book In the Kitchen with Stefano Faita. "I was always so amazed at how quickly my mom made them and got them on the table — they cook up in no time.

"Serve your cutlets with a light side dish, such as sautéed cherry tomatoes (the recipe is right here!), or put a cutlet on a bun with some marinated artichokes. Yum!"

1. To make the Breaded Veal Cutlets: Prepare a breading station by arranging 3 shallow dishes or pie plates with the following: flour in the first; eggs beaten with milk in the second; and bread crumbs, Parmesan and herbs stirred together in the third.

2. Season veal with salt and pepper. Dredge cutlets first in flour, then in egg mixture and lastly in bread crumb mixture.

3. In a large skillet over medium heat, melt butter with oil. When oil is hot, add cutlets and brown on each side, 3 to 5 minutes per side.

4. While cutlets are cooking, make the Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes: In a large sauté pan, melt butter over medium-high heat. When butter is golden brown, add tomatoes. Sprinkle them with sugar and season with salt and pepper. Increase heat to high and sauté tomatoes, stirring gently, until they start to soften and skins begin to wrinkle, about 5 minutes. Add the parsley, marjoram and thyme, mix well and remove from heat.

5. Serve cutlets with Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes.

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Ingredients

Breaded Veal Cutlets
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) all-purpose flour
- 3 large eggs
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) milk
- 1 cup (250 ml) fresh or dry bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tsp (10 ml) chopped fresh herbs, such as sage or rosemary
- 4 large veal cutlets, pounded 1/4 inch (5 mm) thick
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) butter
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) olive oil

Sautéed Cherry Tomatoes
- 3 tbsp (45 ml) butter
- 1 1/2 lb (675 g) vine-ripened cherry tomatoes
- 1 tsp (5 ml) sugar
- Salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) each chopped fresh Italian parsley, marjoram, thyme

FLASH FOOD

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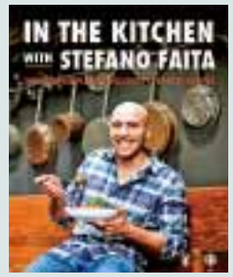
Cookbook of the Week

Effortless meals



Stefano Faita goes from the wildly popular TV show In the Kitchen with Stefano Faita to an easy-to-follow book of the same name. The collection includes Faita's favourite recipes (think Buttermilk Fried Chicken, Mango Cabbage Slaw, Cajun Home Fries and more) from the series as well as extra trips. The book covers everything from breakfast and dinner to snacks, salads, desserts and more. METRO

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Humph Day in Sochi

Women's bobsled.
Canadian duo successfully defends its title won in Vancouver

Canada's Kaillie Humphries, left, and Heather Moyse celebrate winning the gold medal in women's bobsled at the Sochi Winter Olympics in Krasnaya Polyana, Russia, on Wednesday. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Kaillie Humphries arrived at the start house for her final bobsled run at the Sochi Games not knowing how much time she needed to make up to catch the leaders.

Her brakeman, Heather Moyse, knew but wasn't saying. She wanted her pilot to worry about her own run and not the clock.

"I just looked at her and I said, 'It's possible,'" Moyse said. "That's all Kaillie needed to know, that the gap wasn't closed but it was possible."

Humphries visualized the 17-turn track in her mind and set out to nail another consistent run. She delivered just that Wednesday night and it was enough to give them a second straight Olympic title, the first to achieve that goal.

"When I don't know times, I mean, ignorance is bliss," Humphries said.

The Canada 1 sled had a gap of 11-100ths of a second to close entering the final run. Moyse delivered with a strong push at the start, then Humphries took over from there.

Both were elated at the finish and satisfied knowing they did everything they could.

"For both of us to know we pushed the hardest we could have possibly pushed, I drove the track the very best that I knew how, when we got out of the sled on that fourth run both her and I — without even having to really say anything — knew that we had done everything in our power," Humphries said.

With at least a silver locked up, they had a nervous two-minute wait in the finish area as Elana Meyers and Lauryn Williams completed their final run.

"I never wish bad on people but I was thinking, 'Just make a few mistakes, please,'" Humphries said.

The pressure seemed to get to the Americans, who had a few wobbles down the Sanki Sliding Center track and came up one-10th of a second short.

It would be gold once again for the Canadians, who were underdogs when they won at the Vancouver Games four years ago but favourites this time around.

Humphries, from Calgary, and Moyse, from Summerside, P.E.I., finished with a four-run time of three minutes 50.61 seconds. Meyers and Williams were second in 3:50.71.

The United States also won bronze, with Jamie Greubel and Aja Evans finishing a full second off the lead in 3:51.61. Edmonton's Jenny Ciochetti and Chelsea Valois of Zenon Park, Sask., were 13th in the Canada 2 sled in 3:54.49.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quoted

"Winning gold is amazing, but walking away satisfied is better. After the third run I knew that if we did the business we could be on top."

Kaillie Humphries on overcoming a time deficit to win the women's bobsled.

Curling gold medal within Jacobs' reach

Canada skip Brad Jacobs throws a rock during a semifinal curling match against China on Wednesday in Sochi, Russia. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brad Jacobs, Ryan Fry, E.J. Harnden and Ryan Harnden allowed themselves a few minutes — and just a few — to revel in securing an Olympic medal in men's curling for Canada.

The Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., team knew after its 10-6 semifinal win Wednesday over China the glow was finite. Canadians are as demanding of their curlers as they are of their hockey players at the Winter Olympics.

There is a gold medal for the taking Friday. Canada must elbow aside two-time world champion David Murdoch of Britain to get it and will start the game with hammer.

"To get another medal for all of Team Canada is a great feeling, but at the same time, we want to come out and we want to get that gold," Jacobs said.

Rejuvenated from a two-day break, the Canadians unveiled their various weapons — finesse shots and hits — for their best game of the tournament against China.

"There's a little bit of brilliance left in us for that final game," second Harnden said.

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Double-gold hope

Canada is chasing double curling gold in Sochi. Jennifer Jones' Winnipeg rink meets Sweden's Margaretha Sigfridsson in Thursday's championship game.

- Canadian downed Britain's Eve Muirhead 6-4 in their semifinal earlier Wednesday.

Hey Yzerman, 'you're lucky'

Goalier than thou.
Lightning prospect stands on his head in front of future GM as Latvians almost slay Goliath in Sochi

As Kristers Gudlevskis turned aside shot after shot, Sidney Crosby and his teammates wondered what it would take to beat the Latvian goaltender.

"Besides picking the puck up and throwing it in the net, what could you tell someone to do in those situations?" Crosby said.

Team Canada didn't quite have to resort to that, surviving a historic upset bid by Latvia with a 2-1 win in the quarter-finals of the Olympics on the strength of a late power-play goal by Shea Weber.

Despite Gudlevskis making 55 saves on 57 shots, coach Mike Babcock didn't sense any uneasiness on his bench. It's his hope that being in a tight, frustrating game will help Canada as it advances to face the rival Americans in the semifinals Friday.

"We just thought if we kept doing it, we'd get our chances, we'd get a break, we'd score a goal," Babcock said. "Did I want to win 7-1? Absolutely. Do I think it's better for my team that we won the way we did? For sure."

The next one looks tougher on paper than any of Canada's first four games in Sochi. At first glance, a matchup against 11th-seeded Latvia didn't seem like it would be much of a test for the gold-medal favourites.

Canada, Babcock insisted, did not take Latvia lightly. Watching coach Ted Nolan's group eliminate Switzerland should have been enough of a wake-up call.

Still, it was hard to expect this. After Patrick Sharp gave Canada a lead at the 13:37 mark of the first period, it looked like Gudlevskis wouldn't get beat again and the frustration crept in.

"It can get to you, I think, a little bit," winger Patrick Marleau said. "But you just got to keep persisting and think that next one's going to go in."

It didn't help that most of the game happened with a tie score after Lauris Darzins got a breakaway and beat Carey Price two minutes after Sharp's goal. And it didn't help that Canada played almost two full periods without John Tavares, who was hit by Arturs Kulda and is out for the rest of the tournament with a knee injury.

A controversial no-goal call in the third period that could have led to a Canadian penalty shot only added to the drama.

All the while, Canada had Gudlevskis and the Latvians under siege but couldn't break through. It's one thing to squeeze the sticks a little too tight, but another one altogether to have a goalie looking like a brick wall.

"Coming into this tournament we talked about facing adversity," defenceman Duncan Keith said. "There was a little bit there throughout this game. We didn't want to get frustrated with the score being tied."

Told he scared the entire country of Canada on Wednesday night, Gudlevskis said: "I hope so." Asked what he'd say to Team Canada executive director and Lightning general manager Steve Yzerman, the 21-year-old responded: "You're lucky."

In Nolan's eyes, Canada was lucky to take the lead at 13:06 of the third after a slashing penalty was called on Georgijs Pujacs. But Babcock saw it more as the following-through on a game plan.

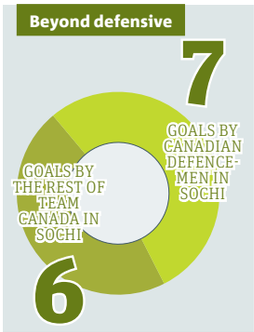
"We just thought we were going to win," he said. "We just talked about being patient and staying the course, not getting in a hurry, not forcing anything. If we did that we thought we'd be fine, and in the end we were."

That one lesson Canada gleaned from this scare and almost joining the 2002 Swedish team that lost to Belarus in Salt Lake City in an infamous chapter of the Olympic history books: Winning matters more at this stage than how it happens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

BRUCE BENNETT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Beyond defensive



Americans up next

"They're obviously the favourite coming into the tournament, and we've opened up a lot of eyes with our play, but we have more in the tank to give and to show."

Max Pacioretty on a looming rematch of the 2010 gold-medal game with Canada. Pacioretty's Americans scored a 5-2 win over the Czech Republic Wednesday. Canada and the U.S. meet in the semifinal on Friday.

Cross-border semi No. 2

"I think the Russian team will win."

Sweden coach Par Marts making a prediction after his team's 5-0 win over Slovenia, but before the Russia-Finland quarter-final. Finland coach Erkka Westerlund said "no comment" when asked for his reaction to what Marts said, and Finn forward Olli Jokinen added: "I don't really care." The Scandinavian rivals meet in the semifinals Friday.

Game of his life

"We were disappointed, because we tried to make a miracle today and we just couldn't do it."

Latvia's Kristers Gudlevskis, who stopped 55 shots and gave hockey fans across Canada cause for major concern on Wednesday afternoon.

Questionable call

C'mon ref!

It looked like Canada took the lead 8:27 into the third, but a controversial call kept it 1-1. Jonathan Toews and Patrick Marleau got the puck to the goal-line and almost over, but Latvia defenceman Kristaps Sotnieks gloved it to keep it out.

The ruling was that the puck did not fully cross the line, and Canada did not get a penalty shot because that cannot be awarded on review.

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'You never know'

Russian hopes Finn-ished

After Russia's men's hockey loss in the quarter-finals to Finland, most of Russia's players rushed through a mixed zone with TV cameras and reporters without stopping, waving off requests to verbalize their disappointment in losing their medal chances in the Sochi Games.

The players who did stop were brief. And Finland, not surprisingly, had a little more to say, with many sentiments summed up by forward Teemu Selanne:

"The experts are wrong many times — and I love it."

Still, as happy as the Finns were, they did show some sympathy for a Russian team that was carrying such high expectations.

Selanne: "I'm a little bit sad also for them. Obviously, they had a big dream to win the gold medal here and then it doesn't work so it's kind of disappointing in many ways because that would be a great story. But again, it's proving to the hockey world that you never know."

Russia's Alex Ovechkin only had this to say: "No emotion right now."

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Russian hockey fans at the end of Russia's loss to Finland on Wednesday.

JULIO CORTEZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caroline Ouellette is one of three Canadian players who are in pursuit of their fourth Olympic gold medal. BRUCE BENNETT/GETTY IMAGES

Seasoned Canadians to face off with speedy U.S.

Women's hockey. Canuck squad will rely on leadership of vets when they take on rivals

To win a fourth straight Olympic gold medal, the Canadian women's hockey team must leverage its big-game experience up front to overcome the superior speed of the United States.

Canada's dozen forwards have a combined 18 previous appearances at the Winter Olympics among them compared to seven among the American forwards.

On defence, previous Winter Games experience is equal between the two countries. Both sides possess seasoned goaltenders.

Thursday's final at the Bolshoy Ice Dome is about executing in a vice of pressure for both countries.

The U.S. wants to reclaim the gold it won in 1998 and this year's team is young and relentless.

If there is a crack in their armour, it was revealed in Canada's 3-2 victory in the preliminary round. Taking a 1-0 lead into the third period, the Americans lost their composure when Canada equalized early in the second and pulled ahead less than two minutes later.

So it will be up to three-time gold medallists Caroline Ouellette, Hayley Wickenheiser and Jayna Hefford, as well as third-time Olympians Meghan Agosta-Marciano and Gillian Apps to shepherd Canada through the defining moment or moments of the gold-medal game.

"I can bring some things to the table, but don't kid yourself," coach Kevin Dineen said. "I'm going to lean a little bit on Caroline Ouellette, Jayna Hefford, Hayley Wickenheiser and Gillian Apps. Great players who have been in an Olympics or two. They've sat in this seat before."

Canada's win over the U.S. in the round-robin ended a four-game losing streak against the Americans, but it doesn't necessarily give Canada the upper hand Thursday.

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Who to watch

A quick look at the players in the women's hockey final between Canada and the U.S.:

Canada

- **Marie-Philip Poulin.** Scored both of Canada's goals in the 2010 final.
- **Hayley Wickenheiser.** Six-time Olympian proving in this tournament she hasn't lost a step.
- **Catherine Ward.** Canada needs her poise and puck skills on an inexperienced defence.

United States

- **Amanda Kessel.** Sister of Toronto Maple Leafs forward Phil Kessel and linemates Brianna Decker and Kendall Coyne lead the tournament in scoring.
- **Hilary Knight.** Forward was the best player for the U.S. in four straight pre-Sochi wins over Canada.
- **Jessie Vetter.** The U.S. has beaten Canada in four of the last five world championship finals with Vetter in net.

Biathlon

Bjoerndalen sets new winter medal mark with 13

In a fitting way to mark becoming the most decorated Winter Olympian ever, Ole Einar Bjoerndalen ensured his record 13th medal was gold Wednesday when he helped Norway win the first Olympic mixed relay in biathlon.

Bjoerndalen broke the total medals record he previously shared with retired cross-country skiing great Bjoern Daehlie, and also matched the fellow Norwegian's mark of eight golds. Bjoerndalen won gold earlier at the Sochi Olympics in the men's sprint biathlon.

Daehlie won eight gold, four silver and no bronze medals; Bjoerndalen's haul is now 8-4-1.

The 40-year-old Bjoerndalen can win another medal in the last men's biathlon event in Sochi, the 4x7.5K relay on Saturday.

Norway's victory came one day after Bjoerndalen missed out on a medal chance in the 15K mass start event, when he was in fourth position before missing four targets in his final shooting. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Giant slalom. U.S.'s Ligety gets his swerve on to earn second alpine skiing gold

This was the race Ted Ligety knew he should win.

So did everybody else.

And that, Ligety explained Wednesday after becoming the first American man in Olympic history with two alpine skiing gold medals, was precisely what made the feat so tough.

Sometimes, being a popular pick can be overwhelming. Ligety learned that four years ago, and dealt with the matter far better on this day.

Scraping the snow with his gloves and hips while taking wide turns around gates, his body swaying left and right with a pendulum's precision, Ligety finished the two-leg giant slalom with a combined time of two minutes 45.29 seconds, winning by nearly a half-second.

His gold is the first for the U.S. alpine team at the Sochi Games. Yet Ligety's overriding emotion as he fell to the ground in the finish area was something other than pure joy.

"It was a huge relief," said Ligety, a 29-year-old based in Park City, Utah. "All season long, everybody talks about the Olympics, Olympics, Olympics. At a certain point, I was just like, 'Let's do it already. Let's get this thing over with, so we can stop talking about the pressure and everything with it.' So it's awesome to ... finally do it and get the monkey off the back."

Trevor Philp of Calgary was the top Canadian in 25th place. Phil Brown of Toronto was 29th and Morgan Priddy of Whistler, B.C., was 33rd.

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Gold medallist Ted Ligety of the U.S. CHRISTOPHE ENA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teammate

"He carries so much speed and doesn't make mistakes." U.S. skier Bode Miller

MEDALS

Nation	G	S	B	Tot.
United States of America	7	5	11	23
Russian Federation	6	9	7	22
Netherlands	6	7	9	22
Norway	9	4	7	20
Canada	**5**	**9**	**4**	**18**
Germany	8	3	4	15

WHAT CANADA DID

WEDNESDAY

ALPINE SKIING

Men's Giant Slalom - Trevor Philp of Calgary was the top Canadian after the two runs, placing 25th (two minutes 49.55 seconds, +4.26 seconds). Phil Brown of Toronto was 29th (2:49.91) and Morgan Pridy of Whistler, B.C., was 33rd (2:51.96).

BIATHLON

2x6km Women + 2x7.5 km Men Mixed Relay - The Canadian team of Megan Imrie (Falcon Lake, Man.), Rosanna Crawford (Canmore, Alta.), Brendan Green (Hay River, N.W.T.) and Scott Perras (Regina), finished 12th with a time of one hour, 13 minutes and 27.7 seconds, four minutes and 10.7 seconds behind gold medallist Norway.

BOBSLEIGH

Women's - Kaillie Humphries (Calgary) and Heather Moyse (Summerside. P.E.I.), successfully defended their **gold medal** with a four-run time of three minutes 50.61 seconds, erasing a 0.23 deficit going into the final two runs to beat United States 1 by a tenth-of-a-second. Jennifer Ciochetti (Edmonton) and Chelsea Valois (Zenon Park, Sask.) placed 13th (3:54.49).

CROSS-COUNTRY

Ladies' Team Sprint ClassicSemifinal - Daria Gaiazova (Banff, Alta.) and Perianne Jones (Almonte, Ont.) were fifth out of the nine teams in their group and did not advance.

Men's Team Sprint Classic Semifinals - Alex Harvey (St. Ferreol-les-Neiges, Que.) and Devon Kershaw (Sudbury, Ont.) were sixth out of 11 teams in their group and did not advance.

CURLING

Women's Semifinal - Canada defeated Great Britain 6-4 and plays Sweden in the gold medal match on Thursday.

Men's Semifinal - Canada defeated China 10-6 and will face Great Britain for the gold medal on Friday.

FIGURE SKATING

Ladies Short Program - Kaetlyn Osmond (Sherwood Park, Alta.) placed 13th with 56.18 points and Gabrielle Daleman (Newmarket, Ont.) was 19th with 52.61 going into Thursday's free program.

ICE HOCKEY

Men's Quarter-final - Canada defeated Latvia 2-1 and will play the U.S. in the semifinal game on Friday.

SNOWBOARD

Ladies' Parallel Giant Slalom - Marianne Leeson (Burlington, Ont.) placed 5th overall, Caroline Calve (Aylmer, Que.) took 6th and Ariane Lavigne (Lac-Superieur, Que.) was 8th. Each lost their quarter-final race.

Men's Parallel Giant Slalom - Defending gold medallist Jasey Jay Anderson, of Mont-Tremblant, Que., and Matt Morison of Burketon, Ont., made it through qualifying but were eliminated in the next round. Michael Lambert of Toronto failed to made it through qualifying. Anderson placed 14th overall, Morison 15th and Lambert 27th.

SPEED SKATING

Ladies' 5000 m - Ivanie Blondon of Ottawa placed 14th overall with a time of seven minutes 20.10 seconds, 28.56 seconds behind gold medallist Martina Sablikova of the Czech Republic.

CURLING

At Sochi, Russia
All Times Eastern
MEN
Wednesday's results
SEMIFINALS
Canada 10 China 6
Britain 6 Sweden 5
Tuesday's results
TIEBREAKER
Britain 6 Norway 5
Friday's games
BRONZE MEDAL
Sweden vs. China, 3:30 a.m.
GOLD MEDAL
Britain vs. **Canada**, 8:30 a.m.
WOMEN
Wednesday's results
SEMIFINALS
Canada 6 Britain 4
Sweden 7 Switzerland 5
Thursday's games
BRONZE MEDAL
Britain vs. Switzerland, 3:30 a.m.
GOLD MEDAL
Canada vs. Sweden, 8:30 a.m.

HOCKEY

All times Eastern
MEN
Wednesday's results
QUARTERFINALS
Canada 2 Latvia 1
Sweden 5 Slovenia 0
Finland 3 Russia 1
United States 5 Czech Republic 2
Friday's games
SEMIFINALS
Sweden at Finland, 7 a.m.
Canada at United States, 12 p.m.
Saturday's game
BRONZE MEDAL GAME
Semifinal losers, 10 a.m.
Sunday's game
GOLD MEDAL GAME
Semifinal winners, 7 a.m.

CANADA 2, LATVIA 1

First Period
1. Canada, Sharp 1 (Nash) 13:37.
2. Latvia, Darzins 1 (Kulda, Sprukts) 15:41.
Penalties — Sharp Cda (tripping) 6:18, Keith Cda (broken stick) 16:02.
Second Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Girgensons Lat (slashing) 5:37, St. Louis Cda (slashing) 10:21, Ozolinsh Lat (high-sticking) 19:33.
Third Period
3. Canada, Weber 1 (Doughty, Toews) 13:06 (pp).
Penalties — Pujacs Lat (slashing) 11:09.
Shots

Latvia	6	5	5—16
Canada	16	19	22—57

Goal — Latvia: Gudlevskis (L); Canada: Price (W). **Power plays (goal-chances) —** Latvia: 0-3; Canada: 1-3.
Referees — Tim Peel, Jyri Ronn. **Linesmen** — Brad Kovachik, Sakari Suominen.
Attendance — 9,825 at Sochi, Russia.
WOMEN
Thursday's games
BRONZE MEDAL GAME
Switzerland at Sweden, 7 a.m.
GOLD MEDAL GAME
Canada at United States, 12 p.m.

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
There are a lot of things you need to consider, things that may be of benefit to you in the not too distant future, so don't waste your time socializing when you should be thinking.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Aim to make new friends over the next 24 hours, especially with people whose interests are in some way out of the ordinary. It's not true that Taurus is old-fashioned. In fact, you can be a bit of a rebel.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
You will come under pressure today, especially at work where someone in a position of authority will do their best to make life miserable for you. Stay cool and don't let them provoke you.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
It is time to move on, with no regrets, no backward glances and no promises that if things don't work out you can always go back. Draw a line in the sand, step across it and embrace the new you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
It will pay you to be ruthless today, especially when dealing with people who always seem to get more out of your relationship than you. Look tough, talk tough and, when the time comes, act tough too.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
It may seem as if you're dancing to everyone's tune. Why is that bad? Sometimes it's nice to sit back and let others worry about where to go and what to do next.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Stop worrying about all the little things that may or may not be going wrong and concentrate on the one big thing you would most like to go right. Focus your mind power in a single direction.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Put your own interests first. The Sun in Pisces is giving you a boost of confidence, so make the most of it and make sure everyone knows where you are coming from and what you intend to do.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
As the Sun is moving through the domestic area of your chart it will pay you to focus more on family members than on yourself or your work.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Let people know what is on your mind today. If you keep your thoughts to yourself you will not only feel isolated but you will miss out on a chance to influence the great debate.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Limit spending to essentials today. You know how easy it is to reach into your pocket and find cash for this or that but if you do that now you may have nothing left for the weekend.

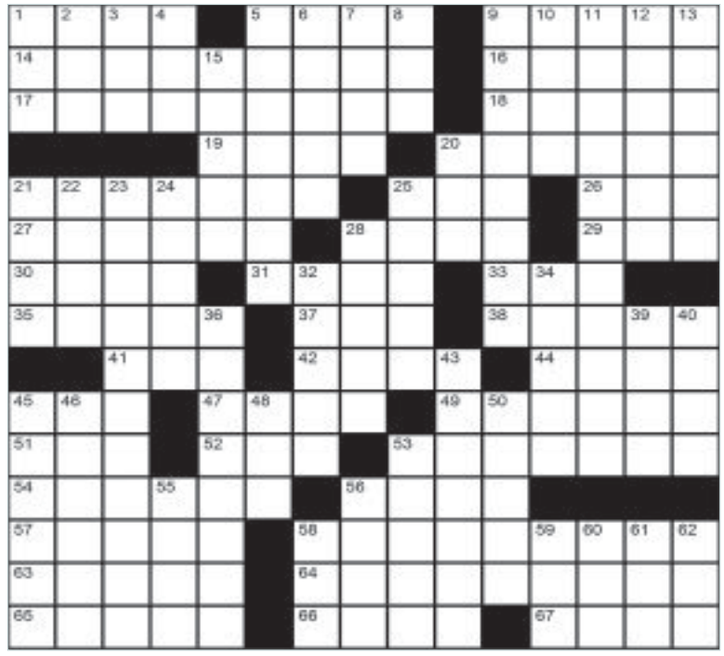
♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Make the most of the Sun in your sign to do something out of the ordinary, something that makes the world sit up and take notice. Don't worry that what you do may be seen as "controversial" — the more people you offend the better.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



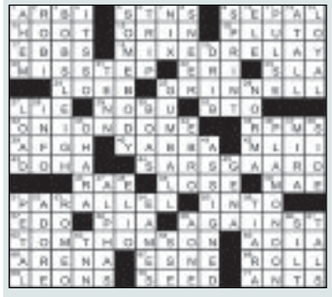
Across

1. SOCHI 2014 - Ice Hockey venue, Bolshoy Ice __
5. Military cap
9. Derek & The Dominos song
14. Inuit language
16. Dainty cases
17. Contemporary creation: 2 wds.
18. SOCHI 2014 - Russki __ Ski Jumping Center
19. SOCHI 2014 - 'I' of IOC [abbr.]
20. "You Needed Me" bit: "_ __ a tear..."
21. Fifty Shades of Grey novelist, _._. __
25. Ford product
26. See, in Dutch
27. Author, __ May Alcott
28. __ fide
29. Elevs.
30. 17th-century sailor, Captain __
31. Unique
33. Caesar's 1051
35. Choler
37. Fire: French
38. Canadian guitarist renowned for Mediterranean music
41. Time
42. Fruit-filled pastry
44. Singer Mr. Cruz
45. Seed holder
47. Search
49. Actor Mr. Hauer
51. Pre-afternoon hrs.
52. __ excellence
53. Go to a restaurant: 2 wds.
54. Relishes: 2 wds.
56. Examination
57. "That was _ __!" (I had fun!)
58. Body of water for Saint Petersburg, Russia: 2 wds.
63. "Do you get the birthday __ _ sent?"
64. 'We Were Born to Glory' Canadian singer/songwriter: 2 wds.
65. Shakira album: 'Donde __ los Ladrones?'
66. Formal gr.
67. Leave out

Down

1. Faint
2. Yoko's surname
3. Soaked soil
4. Barely get by
5. Actor Greg
6. Les __-Unis (United States, in French)
7. Knitting stitch
8. Addams Family relative
9. Painful 'pin' problem: 2 wds.
10. 'Origin' suffix
11. Doctor played by Omar Sharif: 2 wds.
12. Appreciate something: 2 wds.
13. Digressions
15. Pares
20. Sir McKellen link
21. "Hot in Cleveland" role
22. Meat cut
23. SOCHI 2014 - Figure Skating, for example: 2 wds.
24. Helpful human
25. Heart: French
28. Crack
32. Following
34. Coffee order
36. Boney M. disco hit
39. Stead
40. __ cloud, as per Astronomy
43. Soap opera star Mr. Rogers
45. Royal residence
46. "Mutual of __ Wild Kingdom"
48. The Raven writer's monogram
50. Up to
53. Quebec's flag symbol, Fleur-__-__ [var. sp.]
55. Pop
56. Artsy spot in New Mexico
58. Undergarment
59. Mountain basin
60. "...or __ _ thought."
61. Dawn goddess
62. Promos

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

2					3	9	7	
	5			1		3	2	
4			5					6
				5			1	8
		3				5		
5	7			2				
1					8			2
	8	5		6			4	
	9	2	7					1

Yesterday's Sudoku

3	6	4	9	7	2	5	8	1
5	9	1	6	8	3	7	4	2
8	7	2	5	4	1	9	3	6
9	2	8	3	6	5	4	1	7
7	1	5	4	2	9	3	6	8
4	3	6	8	1	7	2	9	5
1	5	3	2	9	6	8	7	4
6	4	9	7	5	8	1	2	3
2	8	7	1	3	4	6	5	9

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